

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending. Claims 12-29 are allowed. Claims 1-11 and 30-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hur et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,201,436). Claims 3 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 6, 30, 34, and 37-38 are currently amended.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for reciting the "first current limiter" is "programmable". Referring to Figure 3b, there is a first current limiter 310 as described at page 9, paragraph 33, of the instant specification. Therein, current sources I2 and I3 determine a first limit (clipping) value. Current sources I2, I3, and I4 are preferably programmable in one embodiment of the present invention. (pages 9-10, paragraph 35). Thus, the first current limiter is programmable. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that there is ample support for reciting the "first current limiter" is "programmable" and that claim 3 is, therefore, patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 6 and depending claim 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for reciting "the first current limiter includes a second current source and a third current source." Claim 6 is amended to recite "the first current limiter produces the first limit value in response to a second current source and a third current source." Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claims 6-7, as amended, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites "A current generator providing an output current comprising: a first current limiter coupled between an input current and the output current, the first current limiter generating *a first current having a first limit value*; and a second current limiter coupled between the input current and the output current, the second current limiter generating *a second current having a second limit value different than the first limit value*; and a node coupled to the first current limiter and the second current limiter wherein the output current is the sum of the first current and the second current, and wherein *the output current varies substantially between the first limit value and the second limit value*."

Independent claim 30, as amended, recites "A method of limiting an output current, the method comprising the steps of: *limiting a first current to a first limit creating a first output current; limiting a second current to a second limit different than the first limit creating a second output current; and summing the first output current and the second output current to create the output current that varies substantially between the first limit and the second limit.*" (emphasis added).

Hur et al. fail to disclose the foregoing emphasized limitations. Referring to Figure 1 in particular, Hur et al. disclose that current I1 and mirrored current I4 are both proportional to temperature. (col. 7, lines 19-21). Hur et al. also disclose that current I3 and mirrored current I5 are inversely proportional to temperature. (col. 7, lines 28-30). Finally, Hur et al. disclose that the summed "current Ibias1 preferably is maintained constant regardless of changes in temperature." (col. 7, lines 32-37). Hur et al. fail to disclose first and second limits or an output current that varies substantially between the first and second limits as required by claims 1-11 and 30-39. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11 and 30-39, as amended, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hur et al.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 and 30-39. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicants' attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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